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USSR - Middle East: The USSR has moved to re-
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*USSR - MIDDLE EAST: THE USSR HAS MOVED TO RE-INVIGORATE THE STALEMATED FOUR-POWER TALKS IN NEW YORK.

AT THE FOUR-POWER SESSION YESTERDAY, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE MALIK, RESPONDED TO LONG-STANDING US REQUESTS TO MAKE MORE EXPLICIT THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE CRITICAL ISSUES OF WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES AND DECLARATIONS ON PEACE. MALIK SET FORTH IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL THE SOVIET REACTIONS TO US PROPOSALS ON PEACE AND ELABORATED THE USSR'S PROPOSALS ON WITHDRAWAL, ALTHOUGH HIS REMARKS CONSTITUTE ONLY SLIGHT MOVEMENT IN THE USSR'S POSITION.

THE SOVIET RESPONSE HAS THE EARMARKS OF AN EFFORT TO GAIN TIME FOR FURTHER DIPLOMATIC--AND PERHAPS MILITARY--MOVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WITH RESPECT TO THE US, IT IS PROBABLY INTENDED TO AROUSE INTEREST AND TO PUT WASHINGTON UNDER DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE TO CALM THE SITUATION. MALIK'S STATEMENTS REINFORCE OTHER SOVIET EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE US TO WITHHOLD A DECISION ON NEW PHANTOM JET FIGHTERS FOR ISRAEL AND TO PRESS TEL AVIV TO REDUCE ITS LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY. THIS IN TURN WOULD AID CURRENT SOVIET EFFORTS TO IMPROVE EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSES.

WITH RESPECT TO EGYPT, MOSCOW MAY BELIEVE THAT SIGNS OF PROGRESS IN NEW YORK WILL HELP TO PUT OFF EGYPTIAN DEMANDS FOR NEW KINDS OF MILITARY AID THAT WOULD EXPOSE THE SOVIETS TO NEW RISKS. [REDACTED]

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*Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State.

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